

Evaluation Criteria for Buildings

ATC-20 has recommended certain problems to look for when assessing a building. Use your best judgment and experience in deciding which posting to use based on the number and severity of problems evident at the site.

Vertical Load System

- Columns noticeably out of plumb.
- Buckled or failed columns.
- Roof or floor framing separation from walls or other vertical supports.
- Bearing wall, pilaster, or corbel cracking that jeopardizes vertical support.
- Other failure of vertical-load-carrying elements.

Lateral Force System

- Broken, leaning, or seriously degraded moment frames.
- Severely cracked shear walls.
- Broken or buckled frame bracing.
- Broken or seriously damaged diaphragms or horizontal bracing.
- Other failure of lateral-load-carrying element or connection.

P-Delta Effects

- Multistory frame building with residual drift.

Degradation of Structural System

- Cracking, spalling, and/or local crushing of concrete or masonry.

Falling Hazard

- Falling hazard present.

Slope or Foundation Distress

- Base of building pulled apart or differentially settled, fractured foundations, walls, floors or roof.
- Building in zone of faulting.

- Suspected major slope movement.
- Building in danger of being impacted by sliding or falling landslide debris from upslope.

Other Hazards

- Spill of unknown or suspected dangerous material.
- Other hazard (e.g. downed power line).

Use your judgment upon encountering a potentially toxic spill or asbestos contamination. Liquid on the floor does not automatically mean that there has been a toxic spill. Base your posting on the merchandise being sold or stored in the facility.

There is no basis for assuming asbestos contamination just because a building is old. We know that older buildings contain asbestos, but this by itself is not reason to post the building UNSAFE.